

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA  
INDIANAPOLIS DIVISION**

**In re: BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE, INC., ) Master File No. IP 00-9373-C-B/S  
TIRES PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION ) MDL NO. 1373  
\_\_\_\_\_)  
THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO ALL )  
ACTIONS )**

**ENTRY FOR OCTOBER 24, 2002**

The parties appeared, by counsel, this date for a telephonic discovery conference, during which the following was discussed:

1. Plaintiffs' counsel Victor Diaz and Mike Eidson have agreed with the defendants to extend by 60 days all deadlines in the Second, Third and Fourth Wave foreign accident cases in which they represent the plaintiffs. The defendants expressed their desire to similarly extend the deadlines in those cases involving other plaintiffs' attorneys, and the magistrate judge instructed the defendants to file a motion on the issue to give the other plaintiffs' counsel the opportunity to object, if they so desire. So that the motion and any objections thereto may be considered, the October 30<sup>th</sup> expert disclosure deadline in all Second Wave foreign accident cases in which the plaintiffs are not represented by either Mr. Diaz or Mr. Eidson is hereby extended by 15 days.
2. The October 31, 2002, deadline for serving foreign law expert rebuttal reports regarding Venezuelan law is **extended indefinitely** due to a general strike in Venezuela. The parties shall report to the magistrate judge at each discovery conference as to the status of the strike in Venezuela so that a new deadline can be established as soon as practicable.

3. The plaintiffs report that the general strike will make it difficult to complete the Venezuelan plaintiffs' execution of economic release forms. Plaintiffs shall report on the progress of this process at the next discovery conference.
4. The magistrate judge has considered the issue of the plaintiffs' desire to obtain copies of all reports submitted in this MDL by the defendants' vehicle and tire experts. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(1) gives the court the discretion to permit, for good cause, discovery of "any matter relevant to the subject matter involved in the action." The magistrate judge determines that there is good cause in this case to permit the discovery of the expert reports sought by the plaintiffs, which clearly are relevant to the subject matter of the individual cases in this MDL. Accordingly, at plaintiffs' expense, the defendants shall provide Mr. Diaz, counsel for the plaintiffs, with a copy of the written report submitted to date in each individual case in this MDL by each of their vehicle and tire experts **within 14 days of the date of this Entry**. As to those expert reports that are served in the future, the plaintiffs shall be responsible for establishing a procedure to insure that Mr. Diaz receives a copy of each such report.

ENTERED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of October 2002.

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V. Sue Shields  
United States Magistrate Judge  
Southern District of Indiana

Copies to:

Irwin B Levin  
Cohen & Malad  
136 North Delaware Street  
P O Box 627  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

William E Winingham  
Wilson Kehoe & Winingham  
2859 North Meridian Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1317

Randall Riggs  
Locke Reynolds LLP  
201 N. Illinois St., Suite 1000  
P.O. Box 44961  
Indianapolis, IN 46244-0961